

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying a set of hierarchical data and a set of non-hierarchical data on an electronic display, the method comprising:

displaying at least part of the set of hierarchical data on the electronic display in a tree diagram that has a plurality of levels with one or more nodes present at each level; and

displaying the set of non-hierarchical data on the electronic display in a plurality of auxiliary nodes that are provided between at least some of the plurality of levels of the tree diagram.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising displaying an expansion handle adjacent at least one of the nodes in the tree diagram, wherein the expansion handle is configured to expand or collapse the tree diagram at the at least one of the nodes.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising using the expansion handle to show or hide selected of the auxiliary nodes.

4. The method of Claim 2, further comprising pointing to the expansion handle with a pointing device while simultaneously double-clicking a control button on the pointing device to show or hide selected of the auxiliary nodes.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein pointing to the expansion handle with a pointing device while pressing a first button on the pointing device operates to expand or collapse the tree diagram at the at least one of the nodes, and wherein pointing to the expansion handle with the pointing device while pressing a second button on the pointing device operates to show or hide selected of the auxiliary nodes.

6. The method of Claim 2, further comprising displaying a secondary expansion handle adjacent at least one of the nodes in the tree diagram, wherein the secondary expansion handle is configured to show or hide selected of the auxiliary nodes.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the expansion handle comprises a first type of icon and the secondary expansion handle comprises a second type of icon that is different than the first type of icon.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least some of the nodes in the tree diagram comprise an expansion handle and a data entry connected by a horizontal connector, and wherein the method further comprises displaying a secondary expansion handle on or adjacent to at least one of the horizontal connectors.

9. A method for displaying a set of hierarchical data and a set of non-hierarchical data in a composite diagram, comprising:

displaying a first part of the set of hierarchical data in a first plurality of nodes that are arranged in a plurality of levels to form a tree diagram;

expanding the tree diagram at one of the first plurality of nodes to display a second part of the set of hierarchical data in a second plurality of nodes that descend from the one of the first plurality of nodes; and

expanding the one of the first plurality of nodes to display a plurality of auxiliary nodes that contain a portion of the set of non-hierarchical data.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising toggling an expansion handle adjacent the one of the first plurality of nodes to initiate the expansion of the tree diagram at one of the first plurality of nodes.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising using the expansion handle adjacent the one of the first plurality of nodes to initiate the display of the auxiliary nodes.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising toggling a second expansion handle located adjacent the expansion handle to initiate the display of the auxiliary nodes.

13. A graphical user interface for displaying a set of hierarchical data and a set of non-hierarchical data, comprising:

a plurality of nodes that display at least a portion of the set of hierarchical data, wherein the plurality of nodes are arranged in a plurality of levels to form a tree diagram; and

a plurality of auxiliary nodes that display at least a portion of the set of non-hierarchical data, wherein the plurality of auxiliary nodes are arranged in one or more auxiliary levels that are positioned between adjacent levels of the tree diagram.

14. The graphical user interface of Claim 13, further comprising a plurality of expansion handles, wherein each of the plurality of expansion handles is associated with one of the plurality of nodes and is configured to expand or contract the tree diagram at the respective one of the plurality of nodes.

15. The graphical user interface of Claim 14, wherein at least some of the plurality of expansion handles are further configured to display or hide selected of the plurality of auxiliary nodes.

16. The graphical user interface of Claim 14, further comprising at least one secondary expansion handle associated with at least some of the plurality of auxiliary nodes that is configured to display or hide selected of the plurality of auxiliary nodes.

17. A system for displaying a set of hierarchical data and a set of non-hierarchical data on an electronic display, comprising:

means for displaying at least part of the set of hierarchical data on the electronic display in a tree diagram that has a plurality of levels with one or more nodes present at each level; and

means for displaying the set of non-hierarchical data on the electronic display in a plurality of auxiliary nodes that are provided between at least some of the plurality of levels of the tree diagram.

18. A computer program product for displaying a set of hierarchical data and a set of non-hierarchical data in a composite diagram, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to display a first part of the set of hierarchical data in a first plurality of nodes that are arranged in a plurality of levels to form a tree diagram;

computer readable program code configured to expand the tree diagram at one of the first plurality of nodes to display a second part of the set of hierarchical data in a second plurality of nodes that descend from the one of the first plurality of nodes; and

computer readable program code configured to expand the one of the first plurality of nodes to display a plurality of auxiliary nodes that contain a portion of the set of non-hierarchical data.